Easter Sunday Service

Welcome:

Opening Sentence:

Jesus said to Thomas, ‘because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’ John 20:29

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us

**Let us rejoice and sing God’s praise for ever.**

Alleluia, Christ is risen

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Opening prayer:

Loving God,

we have come this Easter Day to worship you.

Help us to pray to you in faith,

To sing your praise with joyfulness

And to hear your word with thankfulness;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening hymn: To God be the glory

To God be the glory great things He hath done

So loved He the world that He gave us His Son

Who yielded His life an atonement for sin

And opened the life gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord*

*Let the earth hear His voice*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord*

*Let the people rejoice*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son*

*And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.*

O perfect redemption the purchase of blood

To every believer the promise of God

The vilest offender who truly believes

That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*Chorus*

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done

And great our rejoicing in Jesus the Son

But purer and higher and greater will be

Our wonder our rapture when Jesus we see

*Chorus*

Confession:

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us therefore show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Jesus Christ, risen and triumphant Lord,

We come to you in sorrow for our sins,

and confess our weakness and unbelief.

In your mercy forgive us

**Lord, hear us and help us**

We have lived by our own strength,

And not by the power of your resurrection

In your mercy forgive us

**Lord, hear us and help us**

We have lived for this world alone

And doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy forgive us

**Lord, hear us and help us**

May the God of love and power

Forgive you and free you from your sins,

Heal and strengthen you by his Spirit

And raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: John 20:1-18

Address: Sunday’s Coming

Prayers:

Glorious Lord, you suffered for us and bore our sins

That we might be receive forgiveness and new life:

Grant us grace to trust in your resurrection;

the victory you have won, that is ours through faith,

so we may come to your eternal peace and joy.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father,

we pray for our doctors and nurses,

Protect and watch over them at all times,

Strengthen them when they feel weak

Keep them from despair

and be their light in times of darkness.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,

We pray for our leaders and those in positions of authority

Grant them wisdom in all their decisions

And guide them in all their actions

that may they govern with compassion and justice

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father,

We pray for our farmers and the rural economy;

for our towns, cities and local businesses,

All those whose livelihoods have been devastated

by the Coronovirus outbreak:

Provide for them, sustain and support them

Grant them peace and hope as they trust in you.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Lord,

We pray for our neighbours and friends.

May they know they are supported, cared for and loved

Help them to be patient and calm

in this time of trial and adversity

Keep them safe and well, in body, mind and spirit

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful Shepherd,

We pray for all those who are unwell, grieving or feel forgotten…

We pray for all who feel vulnerable or afraid…

We pray for all who are in isolation or feel alone…

Take them up in your arms and comfort them with your love

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us**

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil**

**For thine is the kingdom the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn: See what a morning

See what a morning, gloriously bright

With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;

Folded the gave clothes, tomb filled with light,

As the angels announce Christ is risen!

See God’s salvation plan,

Wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,

Fulfilled in Christ the Man,

For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, ‘Where is He laid?’

As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;

Hears a voice speaking, calling her name;

It’s the Master, the Lord, raised to life again!

The voice that spans the years,

Speaking life, stirring hope, bring peace to us,

Will sound till He appears,

For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead.

One with the Father, ancient of Days,

Through the Spirit, who clothes faith with certainty,

Honour and blessing, glory ad praise

To the King crowned with power and authority!

And we are raised with Him,

Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered;

And we shall reign with Him,

For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

Agape meal:

A table is prepared as we share together a meal that remembers our Easter hope and our unity in Christ.

*A lit candle is brought to the table*

*We light this candle to remind us that Jesus Christ is the Light in our darkness.*

*He is present with us now by his Spirit and he comforts us with his peace.*

**Lord Jesus, you are the light that overcomes the darkness;**

**shine your light of truth and love into our hearts and lives. Amen.**

*A cross is brought to the table:*

*The cross reminds us that Jesus has triumphed over sin and death.*

*In him we find forgiveness and receive eternal life. In him we are guaranteed an inheritance in heaven that can never perish, spoil or fade.*

**Lord Jesus, in our time of trial help us to look to your resurrection and,**

**by faith, take hold of the glorious hope of new life, that is stored up for us in heaven. Amen.**

*A flower is placed before the cross*

This flower reminds us that when our Lord returns, he will create a new heaven and a new earth and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. We will no longer be apart from our loved ones; we will no longer grieve, but will rejoice and glory in our Lord Jesus.

**Risen Lord, help us to fix our hearts and minds on promised return, that we may look forward to the time when all things will be made new, and sin and death will be no more. Amen.**

*Bread and wine are brought to the table*

*The bread and wine remind us that while we wait for our Lord’s return, his covenant of love remains firm and sure. He will never leave us or forsake; he has given us his Spirit to comfort and strengthen us, to walk with us and to intercede for us.*

**Lord Jesus, as we eat this bread and drink this wine, may we know your living presence with us; may our faith be strengthened, our hope enlivened and our love deepened and broadened for you and for each other. Amen.**

As we eat together we give thanks for one another.

Prayer:

Loving Lord Jesus

we come in the assurance that you are present with us now.

We do not have to seek your presence –

we are daily living in your presence.

Make us aware of it.

Make it real to us and help us in this moment of prayer and communion

to know we are speaking to one who is near and not far off,

whose love is all around us, and who knows our every need.

So may we be at rest in your presence and our hearts at peace.

For you are our Saviour and our Risen Lord. **Amen.**

Moment of Reflection:

Closing Hymn: Thine be the glory

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,

Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.

Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away

Kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,*

*Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb,

Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom

Let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing

For her Lord now liveth; death hast lost its sting.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,*

*Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.*

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life;

Life is nought without Thee: aid us in our strife

Make us more than conquerors, through Thy deathless love:

Bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,*

*Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.*

Blessing:

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore! **Amen.**

May God give to you and all those you love his comfort and his peace

His light and his joy, both now and for evermore, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. **Amen.**